

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

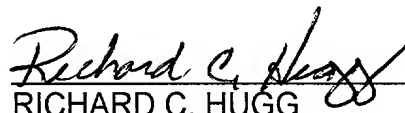
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RICHARD C. HUGG, the above-named petitioner, declares that he is a citizen of the United States with a post office and resident address of 3775 "O" Avenue, Westside, Iowa 51467; that he verily believes himself to be the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled A SELECTIVELY REMOVABLE TIE-DOWN STRAP WINCH ASSEMBLY FOR A TRAILER OR TRUCK described and claimed in the annexed specification; that he does not know and does not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before his invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before his invention thereof, or more than one year prior to this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America or an application filed by him or his legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application; that he has reviewed and understands the contents of the above-identified specification including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration; that he acknowledges the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed by him, or his legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States of America except as identified below.
None.

And he hereby appoints THOMTE, MAZOUR & NIEBERGALL, L.L.C., Customer No. 31,083, Suite 1111, 2120 South 72nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, telephone: 402-392-2280, as his attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

The undersigned petitioner further declares that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application of any patent issuing thereon.

Date 01-18-02


RICHARD C. HUGG
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